

# 13th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

# Willie Johnson, Jr.

Milwaukee County Courthouse • 901 N. 9th Street, RM 201 • Milwaukee, WI 53233 (414) 278-4233 • willie.johnson@milwaukeecountywi.gov www.milwaukee.gov/johnson

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

### **CHAIRMAN**

Milwaukee County Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Steering Committee

Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation (*President*)

Learning for Life/Exploring
Three Harbors Council, BSA (Co-Chair)

#### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**County Board Finance and Audit Committee** 

Community Insurance Corporation Board of Directors

#### **MEMBER**

**Personnel Committee** 

Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Milwaukee County Pension Study Commission

Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Milwaukee Community Justice Council Executive Committee (Evidence Based Decision Making Policy Team)

Milwaukee County Local Emergency
Planning Committee

Wisconsin Counties Association Board of Directors
(Past President)

Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

**National Forum for Black Public Administrators** 

**Economics Wisconsin Board of Directors** 

Milwaukee County Historical Society Board of Directors

Milwaukee Public Theatre Board of Directors



Dear Neighbors of District 13,

**FALL 2018** 

Compared to recent years, the 2019 Milwaukee County budget process was relatively smooth, despite the growing challenge of balancing a structural deficit. As in previous years, a major challenge to adopting a balanced budget for 2019 was addressing the growing structural budget deficit. The structural deficit arises as the normal inflationary "cost to continue" outpaces the flatter growth rate of current revenue sources. Inflation results in average yearly cost increases of 2.3% merely to provide the same level of public services. The county's allowable revenue sources increase at .9%, leaving a gap that must be closed to balance the budget. For 2019, the structural deficit was originally projected at \$22.4 million.

Many people do not realize that the county's fiscal challenges are due in large part to limits that past state legislatures have placed on how much revenue the county can raise. These statutory limits would not be such a burden if the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County could negotiate a fair deal that allowed the county to keep just a fraction of the tax revenue it collects and sends to Madison.

Milwaukee County has sent more and more tax revenue to Madison every year since 2009, but the amount we've received from Madison to help fund state-mandated services has either flatlined or declined. Milwaukee County is now sending about \$400 million more each year to Madison than we did in 2009. But none of that extra revenue comes back to Milwaukee County in the form of state aid to pay for state-mandated services.

The lack of fairness in state support for Milwaukee County is one reason why County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. and County Executive Chris Abele are working together to achieve a Fair Deal for Milwaukee County. As the leading economic engine of the state, a fiscal crisis here could have ripple effects throughout the state. Please let your legislators know that a fair deal for Milwaukee County is good for Wisconsin.

I thank you for letting me serve as your Milwaukee County Supervisor and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact my office. Wishing you and your family all the best this holiday season!

Sincerely,

Willie Johnson, Jr.

Willie Johnson, Jr.
Milwaukee County Supervisor
District 13

### **Residents for Change**



Supervisor Johnson, Jr. joined community members at the Residents for Change Neighborhood Group Picnic at Lincoln Park on July 28, 2018.

# Yesterday's Negro League Celebration: Meet & Greet the Legends

As reported by OnMilwaukee.com, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and the Milwaukee Community Journal's Yvonne Kemp and Mikel Holt.



Mr. Herbert Walker, Mr. Dennis Biddle, Mr. James Beckum and Mr. Warren Kirkendoll of the Negro Baseball Leagues at the Yesterday's Negro League Heritage Celebration at the Rose Senior Center.

On August 3, 2018, the Milwaukee Brewers hosted African American Heritage Night to honor the Negro Baseball League by recognizing Mr. Warren Kirkendoll and Mr. Herbert Walker who played in the Negro Leagues in the 1950s. Other Negro Leagues alumni joining the 90-yearold Kirkendoll and the 86 year old Walker were Ray Knox, Reggie Howard, James Cobbin, James Beckum, Gilbert Black, Dennis Biddle, Henry Elmore, Al Holt, Nathan "Sonny" Weston and Don "Rook" Porter. Note the Milwaukee Brewers have been honoring the contributions of former Negro Leagues players since 1997. Further, the Milwaukee Common Council presented Mr. Kirkendoll and Mr. Walker with citations for their playing with the Gurdon (Ark.) Panthers in the Arkansas-Louisiana-Texas League and the Indianapolis Clowns, respectively.



Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Mr. Warren Kirkendoll, and Sheriff-Elect Earnell Lucas at the Yesterday's Negro League Heritage Celebration Event at the Rose Senior Center in August 2018.

On August 4, 2018, the Yesterday's Negro League Baseball Players Foundation held the Yesterday's Negro League Pride and Heritage Celebration: Meet & Greet in the Rose Senior Center Ballroom. Dennis Biddle, pitcher for the Chicago American Giants, and his wife hosted the event; Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Mayor Tom Barrett, Earl Ingram, Jr. of 1510 AM, and the Milwaukee Community Journal's founding editor and associate publisher Mikel Holt were among the featured speakers.



IMPACT 2-1-1 is a central access point for people in need. During times of personal crisis or community disaster, the free, confidential helpline

and online resource directory make it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. Simply **dial 2-1-1** or go to: **www.impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1** 

### **JobLines Bus Routes Saved**



I co-sponsored an amendment introduced by County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., and Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic to ensure that hundreds of Milwaukee County workers will continue to access jobs with a modified JobLines bus route.

JobLines, which delivers thousands of workers to employers in Milwaukee and Waukesha County, face cancellation at the end of 2018 when their one-time funding runs out.

The routes were originally financed by a court settlement that set aside more than \$13 million for public transportation to job sites that were difficult for many city workers to access.

The amendment, which was adopted on November 5, 2018, will extend the modified route into Waukesha to accommodate 100% of riders and job sites through August of 2019. It also calls for Milwaukee County officials to work with Waukesha County and state leaders to find long-term, shared solutions to maintain the routes.

I would like to thank The Black Health Coalition, MICAH, and the ACLU for their hard work and advocacy on behalf of the citizens who depend on JobLines as their transportation to work. There is a lot of work to be done in Madison as we face growing fiscal crisis and seek solutions for the future.



Supervisor Johnson, Jr. stands with a group of fellow supervisors and JobLines restoration budget amendment supporters, which passed in the Finance and Audit Committee on a vote of 6-0.

## Remembering Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Andrew Cocroft

Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Andrew Cocroft, President and CEO of the Center for Veterans Issues, LTD., entered into eternal life on September 12, 2018. Having been born on November 16, 1946 in Conway, Mississippi to Willie Tilmon Cocroft and Louise Gee Cocroft the fam-



Photo by Carroll Studios of Photography Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Andrew Cocroft

ily moved to Milwaukee. A graduate of North Division High School in 1965, General Cocroft was a member of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. While attending Wisconsin State University-Oshkosh in 1966, he was drafted into the United States Army. Upon completion of U.S. Army Infantry Officer Candidate School and while training at Fort Ord, California, he married Jacqueline Hunter on May 3, 1969 to whom two children were born. A Vietnam era veteran who served in Korea and Panama, he returned to Wisconsin, joined the 84th Division of the Army Reserve, continued his military education, graduated from the U.S. Army War College eventually climbing the chain of command to Brigadier General. Having completed 40 years of active and reserve military service, he retired in 2006.

Through the combined efforts of Robert Cocroft, Willie Sims, and the late Thomas Wynn, the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) was established in 1973 and has chapters in 80 cities throughout the United States. General Cocroft is a previous National Commander of NABVETS which continues it advocacy on behalf of its members with Congress, the federal administration, state, county, and local agencies. The organization is certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a claims representative for veterans. President and CEO Cocroft for the Center for Veterans Issues, LTD. led an organization that has programs to address PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, substance abuse concerns, mental health issues, anger management challenges, disability and health concerns, criminal justice issues, homelessness, housing problems, unemployment and underemployment, poverty, money management struggles, financial literacy, and family issues. May we recognize and honor his service to his community, state and country.

# Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. Elected President of the Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation

Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. was elected president by the Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance by the County Mutual Board of Directors for a three-year term on May 31, 2018. Supervisor Johnson, Jr. has been a member of the County Mutual Board since 2006 and has been involved with the Wisconsin Counties Association since 2003, having served as President of the WCA for a one-year term in 2014. He is the Vice Chairman of the Community Insurance Corporation, another subsidiary of the WCA.

The County Mutual provides comprehensive liability coverage to almost three quarters of the state's 72 counties. The Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation offers in addition to insurance, loss control incentive programs, online safety training, educational seminars, firearms training simulators, cyber risk services, and highway safety rodeos.

# Milwaukee Common Council Renames Part of Fourth St. to Vel R. Phillips Ave.

Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs sponsored a proposal to name North Fourth Street between West Capitol Drive and West St. Paul Avenue to Vel R. Phillips Avenue in May 2018. All members of the Common council signed on as co-sponsors of the proposal. The Honorable Vel R.



Photo by Jeramey Jannene - UrbanMilwaukee.com

The Milwaukee Common Council honors Vel R. Phillips' memory through renaming a section of N. 4th St.

Phillips, the first African-American and first woman to be elected to the Common Council, died on April 17 at the age of 95.

She was eulogized as a civil rights leader who knew the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and United States Presidents at St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church. She had a life of many firsts including, the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School, the first African American to serve on a national committee of a major political party, the first African-American woman to serve as a Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge, and the first African-American to be elected Wisconsin Secretary of State.

Vel R. Phillips, a civil rights activist, helped lead open housing marches with Father James Groppi and the Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council Commandos. As an alderwoman, she was very much instrumental in the passage of the City of Milwaukee's open housing ordinance which was introduced as a resolution for the first time in 1962, then every ninety days after for seven years until passage in 1969. Vel R. Phillips fought discrimination in education, employment, and in any endeavor where she felt there was social injustice.

### **Energy Assistance Available Now**

The Milwaukee County Energy Assistance Program is now available. Any household with a utility burden can apply for this one-time, annual benefit. Your benefit is based on your household's size, your household's income, and your utility usage. It's NOT based on whether or not you are behind on your bill or on how much you may owe.



Applying is easy! Make an appointment or walk in to any of our sites. There are 6 sites across Milwaukee County for your convenience. All sites are on a bus line and are handicapped accessible.

Northwest - 4906 W. Fond du Lac Ave. Downtown/Central - 728 N. James Lovell St. West Allis - 6761 W. Greenfield Ave. Southeast/Bay View - 2701 S. Chase Ave. South - 5663 S. 27th St. North - 6918 W. Brown Deer Rd.

You can apply any time between October 1, 2018 and May 15, 2019. Hours are: **Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Last applicant taken 30 minutes before closing and subject to availability. Closed on major holidays. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call **270-4MKE (270-4653)** or go online to **www.KeepWarmMKE.org** 



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# Supervisor Johnson, Jr. Invites You to Enjoy These FREE Milwaukee County Attractions



#### Thank You Thursday

Free general admission to MPM on the first Thursday of every month. Visit **mpm.edu** for more info.



### Family FREE Days & Special Holidays

**2018**: 12/1, **2019**: 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7. Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day. Visit **milwaukeezoo.org** for more info.



# MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM FREE for all visitors

the first Thursday of every month
Visit mam.org for more info.



# FREE on Mondays from 9 a.m.-Noon for County residents

Excludes major holidays.
Visit milwaukeedomes.org for more info.

### VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

FREE for all visitors the first Wednesday of every month
Visit villaterrace.org for more info.

### Charles Allis Art Museum

FREE for all visitors the first Wednesday of every month Visit charlesallis.org for more info.

# **Service Guide for 13th District Milwaukee County Residents**

County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr278-4233
Airports Mitchell International Airport747-5300 Timmerman Airport461-3222
Child Support Enforcement615-2593
Clerk of Circuit Court278-5362
County Clerk
County Executive278-4211
County Treasurer278-4033
Courts Civil Division (small & large claims)
Department on Aging289-6874
Dept. of Health & Human Services 289-6877
District Attorney's Office John Chisholm278-4646
Election Commission
Emergency/Public Safety Sheriff (non-emergency)
Mental Health Crisis257-7222

Fraud Hotline	.93-FRAUD
House of Correction General and Visiting Information	427-4700
Jury Services General Information278-4468 Reserve Juror Message	
Low Income Housing/Rent Assistance	. 278-4894
Marcus Center for the Performing Arts	273-7121
Marriage Licenses/Passports/DNR License	. 278-4067
Medical Examiner	223-1200
Mental Health ComplexAdmitting (Emergency)	
Milwaukee Art Museum	224-3200
Milwaukee County Historical Society	273-8288
Milwaukee County Parks Boerner Botanical Gardens	525-5600
General Information	
Parks Hotline	
Organized Sports	
Golf Reservations	
Golf Office	257-8024

District 13 Parks Atkinson Triangle (936 W. Atkinson Ave.) Carver Park (911 W. Brown St.) Estabrook Park (4400 N. Estabrook Dr.) Gordon Park (2828 N. Humboldt Blvd.) Kern Park (3614 N. Humboldt Blvd.) Milwaukee River Parkway Pleasant Valley (1229 E. Concordia Ave.) Rose Park (3045 N. Dr. ML King Dr.)	342-0215 964-0064 962-8809 964-0064 461-0839 962-8809
Milwaukee County Zoo	771-3040
Milwaukee Public Museum	
Office of Persons with Disabilities	278-3932
Register in Probate	278-4444
Register of Deeds	
Transit System	
Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares Customer Comments	937-3218
UW-Extension	
Veterans Services	
Victim/Witness Service General Information-Felony	
City of Milwaukee City Hall/Common Council	
Night286-	CITY (2489)